

NEWS RELEASE

Mississippi River Commission

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Mississippi River Commission calls for stronger flood damage reduction for the Upper Mississippi River Basin

Hannibal, Mo., August, 18, 2008 -- The Mississippi River Commission (MRC) voted today to recommend a plan for comprehensive flood damage reduction, Plan H, on the Upper Mississippi watershed in a public meeting at Hannibal, Mo.

Plan H provides for a '500-year level of flood protection' and the plan stems from a multi-year study. Additionally, the plan was modified by the MRC to ensure there are no increases in water surface levels on the Mississippi River below Thebes, Ill., to protect the nation's investment for the six states protected by the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project.

"Two major floods in the last fifteen years have caused billions in economic damage and heart-breaking devastation to the region's people. These disasters compel the Commission to call for action in the Upper Mississippi River watershed," said MRC President-designee, Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh.

"A comprehensive plan for flood damage reduction will now join the on-going navigation improvements and environmental restoration efforts needed to maximize long-term and sustainable benefits for the upper river," Walsh added.

MRC members also stated that the people who live along the Mississippi River are sustained by it, and they in turn support the nation by working the land and sustaining the environment.

"The people who depend on this magnificent waterway that meanders through the most productive land in the United States, are also the people who power the economic engine of mid-America," according to the MRC letter of recommendation. "It is of little use to engineer solutions or develop grand plans if we can not improve the quality of life and sustain the environment upon which that quality depends."

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